

Landmarks in the History of AA in Tallahassee

THE FOUNDER OF AA IN TALLAHASSEE: Knowing who the founders of AA were as individuals is so interesting and makes them real people to us. *We can relate!* It is, in the same way, equally interesting to know who Tom Morgan, the founder of AA in Tallahassee, really was, also. Some of the historical details about Tom Morgan have been lost to time, but we still know a fair amount about him. He attended Emory University as a young man and spoke seven languages fluently. He went to work with the biggest publishing company in the world. He traveled extensively with an unlimited expense account, and the world was his territory. Although small in stature, he got drunk in Mexico and almost started a revolution. That pretty much ended his job with the publishing company, and he came back to Tallahassee. He went to work with his old roommate from Emory who, by this time, had become the Florida Commissioner of Education. Tom's drinking got so bad that his old friend had to tell him, "Tom, if you can't do something about your drinking, I'm going to have to fire you." It was then that Tom turned himself in to the Old Miller Sanitarium in Jacksonville.

In 1945, when he returned to Tallahassee, he started a "group of one" at 808 East Sixth Avenue. The next alcoholic to join Tom was Bob Leslie. Later in 1946, the two men started what would become known as the Central Group in the basement of the old Trinity Methodist Church. In 1948, the fledging group moved to the old Dixie Hotel across the street from the old capital building on S. Monroe St. That same year, the group moved again to a room upstairs over the 7 Seas Restaurant. In 1957, another move... this time to a clubhouse, called Gordon's, on State Road 27. Next, in 1958, the group moved to the Senate Office Building, room 33, in the Capital Complex. This was followed by a move to the Mayo Building ... to the Leon County Courthouse... to the People's Bank building, and all in 1959! Finally, in 1965, the Central Group settled at its current home of 909 Gadsden Street. By this time, the group had grown to 20 - 30 people who regularly attended meetings - including Tom Morgan. He used to tell the story about being in New York, on one of his business trips, and staying at a skyscraper hotel. He was drunk and thinking about committing suicide. So, he called his wife and told her that he was going to jump out of the window. She calmly said, "Well, Tom, if that's what you want to do, go ahead." Then, she called up all of his family and told them she supposed he had already jumped. Tom often said how embarrassing it was to come home and face all that. *Again, we can relate!* The Central Group was his home group until he passed away, sober, in the early 70's.

With much gratitude for the gift of our history to: Bob. H., Neal B., and Jack B.

'TIS GRACE THAT
BROUGHT US SAFE THUS FAR
AND GRACE WILL LEAD US

Home

UPCOMING EVENTS

Service Fair 2019 - Oct. 12th. 9am - 12pm. Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Community Center Bldg., 4665 Thomasville Rd. Hosted by the Bradfordville Group. Come and enjoy learning about: * Service to your home group: Chairing a meeting, meeting etiquette, and service work.

* Service to Others: Sponsorship, corrections, and carrying the message. * Service Beyond Your Group: Service sponsors, Intergroup 5, District 5, and Area 14. Snacks and lunch provided by District 5. For more information or to volunteer, please contact: Christine S. 510-0044.

Annual Gratitude Dinner - Nov. 24th. Doors open at 5pm; Dinner at 6pm, Speaker at 7pm (Cissie F. - Bainbridge, GA). Jackson Masonic Lodge, 2818 Apalachee Parkway. Sponsored by: District 5. A donation of \$5.00 will be appreciated. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

Holiday Luncheon - Dec. 8th. Time: 1 - 4pm. American Legion Hall at Lake Ella. Hosted by Intergroup 5. A donation of \$5.00 or a side dish/dessert. Contacts: Tom J. 339-7960 or Niki M. 339-5794



Intergroup 5 needs a WEB MASTER! When you go to the Intergroup 5 web site to find a meeting on the daily meeting calendar; order AA sponsored literature (books for sale at list price and free pamphlets) for you or group; get up-to-date information on coming events; or even get electronic copies of this newsletter... Guess who makes all that possible! If you know HTML and have experience managing a website. Please contact: mickedgar@gmail.com

Singleness of Purpose Bobby J. and Nate lived in Woodville and would ride their bicycles from Woodville to the Old Southside AA meeting. Soon, they decided to start a meeting closer to home. Both fellows, sponsor and sponsee, started this Woodville Group in 1996 at the First Baptist Church. Tuesday and Thursday meetings were the norm for many years, and the two of them were fixtures at the meetings up until Bobby passed away and Nate moved to Texas. As the years passed, attendance dwindled for the Thursday night meeting so the group decided to meet only on Tuesday nights. (Woodville is not that far away, ya'll!) We stayed the course for a few more years, and, again, the meetings were getting light. Although during this time, there were a few really good meetings where it was just me and the Big Book. (I couldn't waste a pot of coffee after all!) My buddies, Bob H. and Bill P., would come down to help try to keep the meeting going, but it just didn't seem to be happening. The three of us devised a plan... If no one came the following Tuesday night, we were going to close up shop. Bob, Bill, and I were going to take our show on the road and visit a different meeting every Tuesday. I was looking forward to that, but, wouldn't you know it, some newcomer shows up! Rob R. was his name, and he was fresh out of treatment. I told him this was going to be the last meeting, and he seemed a bit dejected. So, I told him if he came back the following week, we would be there. He came back and brought another newcomer. The next week, the Lloyd Group, having heard we needed support, came to the meeting... all of them! Some guy from Wisconsin, Harry S. moved to town and he started becoming a regular. Then, Don K., known as "D", became yet another member. We've continued to meet on Tuesday nights at 7pm ever since, however, we now meet at the United Methodist Church. We're still not the biggest group of misfits - our meetings average just 15 - 20 folks - but, it's as strong a group of AA's as I've ever been a part of. The last Tuesday of every month is an eating meeting to celebrate birthdays or have a speaker meeting. We have an Annual "Chili in January" get-together every year with free hot dogs, chili, fellowship, and a speaker.

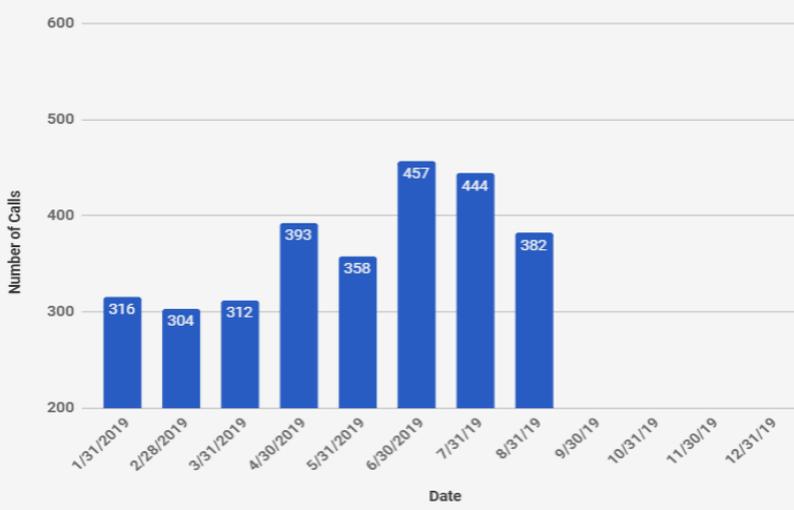
Ya'll Come! All our meetings are open, but, keep in mind, the name of the group... **Singleness of Purpose** Chuck S.

"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs." Step 12 - "Big Book" - p.60

Hope is just a phonecall away!



AA Hotline Calls 2019 - Intergroup 5



Why the AA Hotline Matters: A Journey Worth Taking

I've been clean and sober for just over 5 years. For nearly 4 of the years, I've had the good fortune to coordinate the AA Hotline and work with the 72 other sober alcoholics who make up the AA Hotline team. Who are these people? Well, they're just like you and me, except they've taken the 12th Step "into action" by committing to share their "experience, strength and hope" on a phone call with someone who has nowhere else to turn. They work on a rotation basis: on for one 6 hour shift for one week, off for approximately 5 weeks, on again for one week, and so on.

The people who call the Hotline are more than just alcoholics/addicts. They are people with feelings, hopes, and needs. Many times, AA Hotline callers are just looking for a little bit of your time, understanding, and optimism. Each call is like attending an AA meeting... from the comfort of your home or any place else you happen to be. The incoming caller ID is "AA Hotline" so you know immediately that you're answering a Hotline call. There are two different types of AA Hotline Volunteers, those who: (1) answer the incoming calls, and (2) act as a contact for Hotline volunteers to call for help with an "escalated" Hotline call.

The need is immense and seemingly never-ending. The number of calls per month averages close to 400. In 2018, we had a total of 4,839 calls and, so far, as of August 2019, we have had 2,966 calls. If you remember what it was like in the beginning - how alone you felt - and have it in your heart to share our wonderful program with a fellow alcoholic, please contact me at 850-942-7665 to become an AA Hotline volunteer.

Evelyn G.